

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MARSHALL DIVISION**

MONARCH NETWORKING  
SOLUTIONS LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.;  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,

Defendants.

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Case No. 2:20-CV-00015-JRG

**DISCOVERY ORDER**

After a review of the pleaded claims and defenses in this action, in furtherance of the management of the Court's docket under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16, and after receiving the input of the parties to this action, it is ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Initial Disclosures.** In lieu of the disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1), each party shall disclose to every other party the following information:
  - (a) the correct names of the parties to the lawsuit;
  - (b) the name, address, and telephone number of any potential parties;
  - (c) the legal theories and, in general, the factual bases of the disclosing party's claims or defenses (the disclosing party need not marshal all evidence that may be offered at trial);
  - (d) the name, address, and telephone number of persons having knowledge of relevant facts, a brief statement of each identified person's connection with the case, and a brief, fair summary of the substance of the information known by any such person;

- (e) any indemnity and insuring agreements under which any person or entity carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment entered in this action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment;
- (f) any settlement agreements relevant to the subject matter of this action; and
- (g) any statement of any party to the litigation.

**2. Disclosure of Expert Testimony.** A party must disclose to the other parties the identity of any witness it may use at trial to present evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 702, 703 or 705, and:

- (a) if the witness is one retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or one whose duties as the party's employee regularly involve giving expert testimony, provide the disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) and Local Rule CV-26; and
- (b) for all other such witnesses, provide the disclosure required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(C).

**3. Additional Disclosures.** Without awaiting a discovery request,<sup>1</sup> each party will make the following disclosures to every other party:

- (a) provide the disclosures required by the Patent Rules for the Eastern District of Texas with the following modifications to P.R. 3-1 and P.R. 3-3:
  - i. If a party claiming patent infringement asserts that a claim element is a software limitation, the party need not comply with P.R. 3-1 for those claim

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<sup>1</sup> The Court anticipates that this disclosure requirement will obviate the need for requests for production.

elements until 30 days after source code for each Accused Instrumentality is produced by the opposing party. Thereafter, the party claiming patent infringement shall identify, on an element-by-element basis for each asserted claim, what source code of each Accused Instrumentality allegedly satisfies the software limitations of the asserted claim elements.

ii. If a party claiming patent infringement exercises the provisions of Paragraph 3(a)(i) of this Discovery Order, the party opposing a claim of patent infringement may serve, not later than 30 days after receipt of a Paragraph 3(a)(i) disclosure, supplemental “Invalidity Contentions” that amend only those claim elements identified as software limitations by the party claiming patent infringement.

(b) produce or permit the inspection of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things in the possession, custody, or control of the party that are relevant to the pleaded claims or defenses involved in this action, except to the extent these disclosures are affected by the time limits set forth in the Patent Rules for the Eastern District of Texas; and

(c) provide a complete computation of any category of damages claimed by any party to the action, and produce or permit the inspection of documents or other evidentiary material on which such computation is based, including materials bearing on the nature and extent of injuries suffered, except that the disclosure of the computation of damages may be deferred until the time for Expert Disclosures if a party will rely on a damages expert.

**4. Protective Orders.** The Court will enter the parties’ Agreed Protective Order.

5. **Discovery Limitations.** The discovery in this cause is limited to the disclosures described in Paragraphs 1-3 together with the following limitations. The following limitations may be altered either by agreement of all Parties, or upon order of the Court for good cause shown:

- a) Interrogatories: Plaintiff may serve up to 20 common interrogatories on both Defendants together, and up to 10 individual interrogatories on each Defendant separately, for a total of 40 interrogatories served by Plaintiff. Defendants may collectively serve up to 20 common interrogatories on Plaintiff, and each Defendant may serve up to 10 individual interrogatories on Plaintiff, for a total of 40 interrogatories served on Plaintiff.
- b) Requests for Admissions: Each side shall have 40 requests for admission, allocated in the same way as the interrogatories, *i.e.*, 20 common, and 10 individual. These limitations do not apply to requests for admission for admissibility of documents; parties may serve unlimited requests for admission for authentication of documents. However, the parties will work together in good faith to agree on a stipulation as to the authenticity of their own documents.
- c) Evidence regarding documents' authenticity and/or qualification for hearsay exceptions: The parties will work together in good faith to agree on a stipulation as to the admissibility of documents, including documents obtained from third parties. If any party believes that depositions of document custodians or of other qualified persons are needed in order to resolve questions of the authenticity of any document or data, or to resolve questions relating to the applicability of the "business records" or any other exception to the hearsay rule as to any document or data, then such depositions shall be conducted using written questions, unless such a method is prohibited by the laws of any relevant jurisdiction.

There is no limit to the number of depositions that may be noticed for the purposes described in this paragraph.

- d) Fact depositions of Party Witnesses: Each side may take 50 hours of testimony under Rule 30(b)(6) (no more than 40 of which can be taken of one defendant), and 6 depositions (no more than 4 of which can be taken of one defendant) under Rule 30(b)(1) (each of which shall be limited to 7 hours maximum). If during a 30(b)(6) deposition the party that is presenting the witness objects to a question as outside the scope of the 30(b)(6) notice, then the witness may answer in his individual capacity without thereby causing the deposition to count as one of the 6 Rule 30(b)(1) depositions for purposes of this order. For the purposes of this subparagraph, employees of Monarch's parent, Acacia Research Group LLC, count as "Party" witnesses on Monarch's side.
- e) Fact depositions of Non-Party Witnesses. Each side shall have a total of 60 hours of deposition time on the record for depositions of Non-Party fact witnesses. All time spent on the record counts toward this limit, including time spent cross-examining a Non-Party fact witness noticed by the other side.
- f) Experts: Each side shall have up to 3 non-damages experts, and up to 1 common damages expert. To the extent the parties opt to use a defendant-specific damages expert instead of a common damages expert, then each party may have its own damages expert. If a Party in good faith determines that the Party needs an additional expert for purposes of rebuttal in order to respond to an unanticipated expert opinion to which that Party's previously retained experts are unable to respond, then the Party may add up to two rebuttal experts, for purposes of rebuttal of the unanticipated expert opinions only.

- g) Expert depositions: Each side may depose the other side's damages expert(s) for up to 7 hours. Each side may depose the other side's non-damages experts (*i.e.* experts who do not offer an ultimate opinion on the amount of damages) for a total of up to 14 hours per side. If a party is permitted by rule or Court order to serve a supplemental expert report after that expert has been deposed in accordance with the previous limitations, the opposing party may take a supplemental deposition of that expert for up to 5 hours.
- h) Claim Construction depositions: If a party offers a fact or expert witness declaration in support of its claim construction positions, the opposing party may depose that witness for up to 7 hours without counting against the time limits expressed in the previous subsections of this paragraph.
- i) Any party may later move to modify these limitations for good cause.

**6. Privileged Information.** There is no duty to disclose privileged documents or information. However, the parties are directed to meet and confer concerning privileged documents or information after the Status Conference. By the deadline set in the Docket Control Order, the parties shall exchange privilege logs identifying the documents or information and the basis for any disputed claim of privilege in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection. Any party may move the Court for an order compelling the production of any documents or information identified on any other party's privilege log. If such a motion is made, the party asserting privilege shall respond to the motion within the time period provided by Local Rule CV-7. The party asserting privilege shall then file with the Court within 30 days of the filing of the motion to compel any proof

in the form of declarations or affidavits to support their assertions of privilege, along with the documents over which privilege is asserted for *in camera* inspection.

7. **Signature.** The disclosures required by this Order shall be made in writing and signed by the party or counsel and shall constitute a certification that, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information and belief, such disclosure is complete and correct as of the time it is made. If feasible, counsel shall meet to exchange disclosures required by this Order; otherwise, such disclosures shall be served as provided by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5. The parties shall promptly file a notice with the Court that the disclosures required under this Order have taken place.
8. **Duty to Supplement.** After disclosure is made pursuant to this Order, each party is under a duty to supplement or correct its disclosures **immediately** if the party obtains information on the basis of which it knows that the information disclosed was either incomplete or incorrect when made, or is no longer complete or true.
9. **Discovery Disputes.**
  - (a) Except in cases involving claims of privilege, any party entitled to receive disclosures ("Requesting Party") may, after the deadline for making disclosures, serve upon a party required to make disclosures ("Responding Party") a written statement, in letter form or otherwise, of any reason why the Requesting Party believes that the Responding Party's disclosures are insufficient. The written statement shall list, by category, the items the Requesting Party contends should be produced. The parties shall promptly meet and confer. If the parties are unable to resolve their dispute, then the Responding Party shall, within 14 days after service of the written statement upon it, serve upon the Requesting Party a written

statement, in letter form or otherwise, which identifies (1) the requested items that will be disclosed, if any, and (2) the reasons why any requested items will not be disclosed. The Requesting Party may thereafter file a motion to compel.


- (b) An opposed discovery related motion, or any response thereto, shall not exceed 7 pages. Attachments to a discovery related motion, or a response thereto, shall not exceed 5 pages. No further briefing is allowed absent a request or order from the Court.
- (c) Prior to filing any discovery related motion, the parties must fully comply with the substantive and procedural conference requirements of Local Rule CV-7(h) and (i). Within 72 hours of the Court setting any discovery motion for a hearing, each party's lead attorney (*see* Local Rule CV-11(a)) and local counsel shall meet and confer in person or by telephone, without the involvement or participation of other attorneys, in an effort to resolve the dispute without Court intervention.
- (d) Counsel shall promptly notify the Court of the results of that meeting by filing a joint report of no more than two pages. Unless excused by the Court, each party's lead attorney shall attend any discovery motion hearing set by the Court (though the lead attorney is not required to argue the motion).
- (e) Any change to a party's lead attorney designation must be accomplished by motion and order.
- (f) Counsel are directed to contact the chambers of the undersigned for any "hot-line" disputes before contacting the Discovery Hotline provided by Local Rule CV-26(e). If the undersigned is not available, the parties shall proceed in accordance with Local Rule CV-26(e).



10. **No Excuses.** A party is not excused from the requirements of this Discovery Order because it has not fully completed its investigation of the case, or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party's disclosures, or because another party has not made its disclosures. Absent court order to the contrary, a party is not excused from disclosure because there are pending motions to dismiss, to remand or to change venue.
11. **Filings.** Only upon request from chambers shall counsel submit to the court courtesy copies of any filings.
12. **Proposed Stipulations by the Parties Regarding Discovery.**
  - a) All discovery requests and discovery responses shall be served via electronic mail only.
  - b) Third-Party Subpoenas: The parties may serve subpoenas for third-parties to produce documents. The parties will serve each other with copies of any third-party subpoenas on the same day the subpoena or notice is served on the third-party. The parties will promptly serve each other with copies of any documents produced by third-parties pursuant to subpoena or otherwise within 5 days of receipt of the documents, or, if the documents are received less than 5 days from the date of any deposition of the third-party, within 24 hours of receipt.
13. **Standing Orders.** The parties and counsel are charged with notice of and are required to fully comply with each of the Standing Orders of this Court. Such are posted on the Court's website at <http://www.txed.uscourts.gov/?q=court-annexed-mediation-plan>. The substance of some such orders may be included expressly within this Discovery Order, while others (including the Court's Standing Order Regarding Protection of Proprietary and/or Confidential Information to Be Presented to the Court During Motion and Trial Practice) are incorporated herein by reference. All such standing orders shall be binding on the

parties and counsel, regardless of whether they are expressly included herein or made a part hereof by reference.

**So ORDERED and SIGNED this 2nd day of June, 2020.**

  
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RODNEY GILSTRAP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE